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A TNR interview
threatens Robert Vesco's future.

Costa Rica Imbroglia

The Setting: Costa Rica, for three decades the most stable and democratic of Latin American republics, consistently pro-US.

Time: The present. The political parties have just concluded their primary nominations for next year's presidential elections.

Cast of characters: (1) José Figueres, 70, three times president of his country (most recently 1971-74), architect of its constitution, president and elder statesman of his party, Partido Liberación Nacional (PLN). Figueres is an inventor, an agricultural and industrial entrepreneur whose schemes are devoted to the betterment of Costa Rica. His enterprises are consistently short of capital. He is an intellectual social democrat, blunt and outspoken, a defender and sometimes initiator of the activities of the CIA in Latin American affairs. (2) Daniel Oduber, 57, president of Costa Rica now serving the last year of his term. He was an early protege of Figueres, but their relation has cooled in recent years. (3) Luis Alberto Monge, 51, PLN leader in the national assembly and that party's nominee for the 1978 presidential election; a labor leader, populist social democrat and former editor of *Combate*, a left-wing journal financed by CIA funds passed through other organizations. (4) Robert Lee Vesco, 41, fugitive American financier who has been branded an international swindler by the Securities and Exchange Commission and is accused of looting \$224 million from offshore investment funds. Vesco faces

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CIA Costa Rica
Figueres, Jose'
Monge, Luis Alberto
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Combate
Oduber, Daniel
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